



CITY OF SANTA BARBARA

COUNCIL AGENDA REPORT

AGENDA DATE: September 12, 2006

TO: Mayor and Councilmembers

FROM: Creeks Division, Parks and Recreation Department

SUBJECT: Art From Scrap Contract For Youth Watershed Education Programs

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council authorize the Parks and Recreation Director to execute a 1-year professional services contract with Art From Scrap (AFS) in the amount of \$37,372 for the provision of youth watershed education programs.

DISCUSSION:

The Creeks Restoration and Water Quality Improvement Division (Creeks Division) recommends that the City contract with AFS to provide youth watershed education programs. The education of youth is a key component of community efforts to reduce urban runoff pollution and improve ocean water quality at the beach. By providing clear and engaging activities for youth on the importance of water quality and the causes of pollution, students are able to develop an appreciation of the creeks while adopting the appropriate behaviors to protect them.

Formerly a program of the Community Environmental Council (CEC), AFS is a recently formed non-profit organization with a primary focus on environmental education for school-age children. Since 2002, the Creeks Division and CEC have designed and implemented a youth education program for primarily elementary-age children. The proposed contract with AFS for Fiscal Year 2007 would continue an existing, successful education program. The CEC staff that previously provided the youth education programs for the City now work for AFS and will continue to provide these programs.

AFS would provide water quality education programs for school children within the City of Santa Barbara. These programs include: 1) a three-part Creek Kids series that is targeted to sixth grade students; 2) field trips to the Watershed Resource Center at Arroyo Burro Beach for kindergarten through sixth grade, and 3) a class on water quality for the five-part Green Kids series which emphasizes the interconnectedness of natural resources and the environment. Once complete, it is anticipated that education programs will include the

REVIEWED BY: _____ Finance _____ Attorney

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restoration of Mesa Creek and the Arroyo Burro Estuary. The AFS programs are correlated to state standards and designed to complement existing Creeks Division youth education programs. Although no longer part of CEC, AFS has an agreement with CEC and the County of Santa Barbara for the use of the Watershed Resource Center.

Performance Measures

In Fiscal Year 2006, CEC met their performance measures set out in the contractual agreement. A total of 90 educational programs were provided to 1,906 school children. Approximately 1,000 of those school children participated in more than one program. These programs include in-class educational presentations, field trips to the South Coast Watershed Resource Center, and field trips to the Old Mission Creek Restoration at Bohnett Park. In addition to the programs conducted by CEC, the City provided in-school programs and field trips to over 2,000 children.

During Fiscal Year 2007 it is anticipated that AFS will maintain similar levels of participants, with a goal to conduct 95 programs. In order to maintain an evolving program with fresh elements for teachers and students, special projects are under development. As an example, students will sort and analyze trash as part of a beach clean-up during the Watershed Resource Center fieldtrip, in an effort to better understand sources of ocean pollution and to consider potential solutions. In addition, a list of class projects will be developed for teachers, such as a storm drain art project and creek water quality testing.

Regional Education

In addition to providing watershed youth education programs within the City, AFS is under contract to the County of Santa Barbara to provide similar programs to school children in Carpinteria, Goleta, and other areas in the County. During the 2005/2006 school year, education programs were provided to 1,232 students in these areas. AFS is under contract to the County to provide programming in Fiscal Year 2007. The Creeks Division recommends that working with AFS, the City and County continue to provide similar education programs.

BUDGET/FINANCIAL INFORMATION:

The total cost of the contract with AFS is \$37,372. Funds for this contract are available in the Creeks Division Fiscal Year 2007 Operating Budget.

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SUBMITTED BY: Nancy L. Rapp, Parks and Recreation Director

APPROVED BY: City Administrator's Office